

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SP-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 021615Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9256

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 04130

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, EEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS REACTION TO CALLAGHAN STATEMENT  
TO EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. BRITISH PRESS APRIL 2 SEEMS SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS HOW  
TO ASSESS FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN'S PERFORMANCE IN  
LUXEMBOURG YESTERDAY. EDITORIALS IN THE FOUR QUALITY  
DAILIES, ALL OF WHICH SUPPORTED BRITISH ENTRY INTO THE  
EC, VARIOUSLY BETRAY CONCERN, YET CONSCIOUSLY TRY TO  
PLACE THE MOST OPTIMISTIC INTERPRETATION ON THE CURRENT  
STATE OF PLAY AND ITS ULTIMATE OUTCOME.

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2. THE "TIMES" POMPOUSLY ADVISES EUROPE NOT TO TAKE

FRIGHT. IT CRITICIZES CALLAGHAN FOR THE TONE OF HIS STATEMENT AND ITS "WE - THEY" APPROACH TO THE EC, BUT TAKES COMFORT FROM HIS PLEDGE NOT TO DISRUPT THE WORK OF THE EC DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT NOTES THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE COMPLEX AND DELICATE, AND THAT SOME PEOPLE IN THE LABOR PARTY ARE FERVENTLY HOPING THEY WILL FAIL. IT CONCLUDES THAT "THE NEED NOW IS FOR COOLNESS AND PATIENCE AND TO AVOID RUSHING OUR FENCES."

3. THE "GUARDIAN" EDITORIAL IS CAPTIONED, WITH ONLY SLIGHT WARRANT, "BRITAIN PREFERS TO STAY IN." IT PLACES PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR EVENTUAL POLITICAL UNION, TAKES THE EUROPEANS TO TASK FOR NOT BEING READY WITH STRONG ANSWERS TO CALLAGHAN'S QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT THEY ENVISAGE FOR 1980, AND REJOICES THAT THE LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED ITS INTENTION TO "TAKE THE FULLEST PART" IN DISCUSSING EC POLITICAL COOPERATION.

4. "FINANCIAL TIMES" CRITICIZES CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT SEVERELY FOR ITS RUDENESS, ITS INSULAR APPROACH, AND ITS IGNORANCE OF THE EC. IT FINDS THE HIGHLIGHTING OF LANGUAGE FROM LABOR'S MANIFESTO CLUMSY AND POTENTIALLY DAMAGING, AND ADVISES CALLAGHAN TO FRAME HIS DEMANDS IN TERMS THAT HAVE SOME CHANCE OF BEING NEGOTIATED. IT ALSO FAULTS CALLAGHAN ON HIS REFERENCES TO POLITICAL COOPERATION AND US-EC RELATIONS, AND SAYS THAT HIS MOST DIFFICULT TASK WILL BE TO CONVINCE HIS EC COLLEAGUES THAT THE UK REALLY DOES INTEND TO NEGOTIATE "IN GOOD FAITH."

5. THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" FINDS THAT CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT AMOUNTS TO NOTHING MORE THAN A HOLDING OPERATION. HE IS STALLING BECAUSE HE REPRESENTS A GOVERNMENT THAT IS DEEPLY DIVIDED ON THE SUBJECT. UNLIKE THE "FINANCIAL TIMES," HOWEVER, THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH" PRAISES WHAT CALLAGHAN HAD TO SAY ABOUT US-EC RELATIONS. SOHM

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